

**REMARKS/ARGUMENT**

Claims 1-17 stand allowed.

Claims 18-21, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Li et al. (Bit-Interleaved Coded Modulation with Iterative Decoding; IEEE Communications Letters; Nov. 1997 (pages 169-171), have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection is moot. Applicants intend to file a continuation application on Claims 18-21 in order to further prosecute these claims, the rejection of which they continue to traverse.

An amendment after a final rejection should be entered when it will place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. 37 C.F.R. 1.116; MPEP 714.12. This amendment places the case in condition for allowance.

As a result, Claims 1-17 stand allowed. There are no presently rejected claims in the application. Applicants respectfully request allowance of the application as the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,



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